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TC 1700

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#11/B  
4/8/03  
(ME)

Re application of:

Kouji SHIRAHASHI et al.

Group Art Unit: 1754

Serial No.: 09/699,373

Examiner: Timothy C. Vanoy

Filed: October 31, 2000

Atty. Docket No.: 100021-00030

For: PROCESS FOR DESULFURIZATION OF EXHAUST GAS WITH SEAWATER

**RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR §1.121**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

April 16, 2003

Sir:

This paper is being submitted in response to the outstanding Office Action dated October 16, 2003. An appropriate Petition for Extension of Time is attached.

Please amend the application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend claims 1 and 2 as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) A method for removing an acidic component contained in an exhaust gas comprising:
- (a) introducing raw seawater into a gas-liquid contact apparatus composed of an absorption column provided internally with at least one perforated plate at the top, bottom, or both top and bottom of the absorption column packed with at least one type of fillers to thereby effect an exhaust gas-seawater counter current contact treatment,

DO NOT ENTER JCV May 5, 2003